

REMARKS

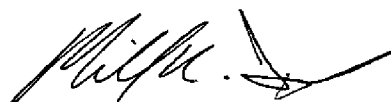
An RCE was filed December 6, 2005. On December 13, 2005, the Examiner and the Undersigned Representative conducted an in-person interview in which differences between the cited prior art references of *Hurtle, Jr.* and *McClellan* and the claimed invention were discussed. A Preliminary Amendment was filed December 15, 2005. The Examiner issued an Office Action dated March 8, 2005. The Examiner and the Undersigned Representative conducted a telephonic interview on July 25, 2006. A Response was filed on July 25, 2006. The Examiner issued a final office action dated October 6, 2006 rejecting claims 1-15 and 17-29 and objecting to claims 7-9 and 24-26.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 17, 22 and 25 have been amended, and claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 21, 23, 24 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 31-35 have been previously withdrawn. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7 and the limitations of the intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Similarly, independent claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 24 and the limitations of the intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-15, 17-20, 22 and 25-29 remain pending in this application and are believed to be allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

No fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Dixon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael K. Dixon
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